



NEWS RELEASE

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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VIRGINIA'S SMALL GRAIN PRODUCTION UP FROM 2003

Virginia's small grain production was up from last year, according to the Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service. These results were based on a survey of producers conducted in early September. The survey indicated that final wheat production for the 2004 crop year was 9.9 million bushels from 180,000 acres, up 35 percent from last year. Wheat yields averaged 55 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels from last year.

Barley production for 2004 totaled nearly 3.0 million bushels, up 6 percent from last year. Barley acreage harvested was 40,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from 2003. Producers averaged 74 bushels per acre, up 12 bushels per acre from last year.

U.S. BARLEY AND WHEAT PRODUCTION UP FROM PREVIOUS FORECAST

All wheat production totaled 2.16 billion bushels in 2004, up 2 percent from the last forecast but 8 percent below 2003. Grain area is 50.2 million acres, down 5 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 43.1 bushels per acre, down 1.1 bushels from a year ago. Levels of production and change from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.50 billion bushels, down 13 percent; other spring wheat, 574 million bushels, up 8 percent; and Durum wheat, 90.5 million bushels, down 6 percent.

Barley production is estimated at 280 million bushels, up 3 percent from the August 1 forecast and up 1 percent from last year. Average yield per acre, at a record high 69.5 bushels, is up 3.8 bushels from the last forecast and 10.6 bushels above 2003. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 4.03 million acres, down 3 percent from August and 15 percent below a year ago. The increase from the previous production forecast is mostly due to Montana, where harvested area is up 50,000 acres and the yield increased by 8 bushels per acre. For Idaho, North Dakota, and Washington, yields increased from August but are more than offset by decreases in the harvested acreage, resulting in lower production.

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